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Pravda Says U.S. Craft Spy In Black Sea

MOSCOW, Jan. 14 (UPI) — Two American destroyers are engaged in suspicious "muscle flexing and intelligence operations" in the Black Sea off the Soviet Union's southern coast, the Communist Party newspaper Pravda charged today.

(U.S. authorities in Istanbul described the Soviet charges as "completely groundless," saying the two warships left the Black Sea Thursday after completing a 4-day routine training exercise.)

Pravda said the ships entered the Black Sea Monday. The newspaper called attention to a Soviet note delivered to U.S. Ambassador Foy D. Kohler Dec. 24 that warned against American operations in the Black Sea near the Russian frontier.

"Why do these unwanted guests come to an area so far away from American shores . . . Do they really feel so cramped in the vast oceans as to cover thousands of miles to choose this area for their exercises?" the paper asked.